

OPINION 2218 (Case 3403)***Mecistocephalus* Newport, 1843 and *Pachymerium* Koch, 1847
(Chilopoda): current usage conserved by designation of
Mecistocephalus punctifrons Newport, 1843 as the type species of
Mecistocephalus Newport, 1843**

Abstract. The Commission has ruled that the usage of the generic names *Mecistocephalus* Newport, 1843 and *Pachymerium* Koch, 1847 for two well-established genera of centipedes is conserved by setting aside type species fixations before the designation by Pocock (1898) of *Mecistocephalus punctifrons* Newport, 1843, as the type species of *Mecistocephalus*.

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; type species; Chilopoda; *Mecistocephalus*; *Pachymerium*; *Geophilus ferrugineus*; *Mecistocephalus punctifrons*; geophilomorph centipedes.

Ruling

- (1) Under the plenary power it is hereby ruled that all previous fixations of type species for the nominal genus *Mecistocephalus* Newport, 1843 before the designation by Pocock (1898) of *Mecistocephalus punctifrons* Newport, 1843 as the type species, are set aside.
- (2) The following names are hereby placed on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology:
 - (a) *Mecistocephalus* Newport, 1843 (gender: masculine), type species *Mecistocephalus punctifrons* Newport, 1843, as ruled in (1) above;
 - (b) *Pachymerium* Koch, 1847 (gender: masculine), type species *Geophilus ferrugineus* Koch, 1835, by monotypy.
- (3) The following names are hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology:
 - (a) *punctifrons* Newport, 1843, as published in the binomen *Mecistocephalus punctifrons* (specific name of the type species of *Mecistocephalus* Newport, 1843);
 - (b) *ferrugineus* Koch, 1835, as published in the binomen *Geophilus ferrugineus* (specific name of the type species of *Pachymerium* Koch, 1847).

History of Case 3403

An application to conserve *Mecistocephalus punctifrons* Newport, 1843 as the type species of the genus *Mecistocephalus* Newport, 1843, by suppression of the designation of *Geophilus ferrugineus* Koch, 1835 as the type species of this genus was received from L. Bonato and A. Minelli (*University of Padova, Italy*) on 15 December 2006. After correspondence the case was published in BZN 64: 166–173. The title, abstract and keywords of the case were published on the Commission's website. No comments were received on this case.

Decision of the Commission

On 1 June 2008 the members of the Commission were invited to vote on the proposals published in BZN 64: 169. At the close of the voting period on 1 September 2008 the votes were as follows:

Affirmative votes – 16: Alonso-Zarazaga, Bouchet, Brothers, Fautin, Grygier, Halliday, Kottelat, Krell, Kullander, Lamas, Lim, Pape, Papp, Rosenberg, van Tol and Zhang.

Negative vote – 1: Bogutskaya.

No vote was received from Ng. Minelli, Patterson, Pyle and Štys were on leave of absence.

Original references

The following are the original references to the names placed on Official Lists by the ruling given in the present Opinion:

- Mecistocephalus* Newport, 1843, *Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London*, **10**: 178.
Pachymerium Koch, 1847, in Herrich-Schäffer, L. (Ed.), *Kritische Revision der Insecten-faune Deutschlands*, vol. 3, p. 85.
punctifrons, *Mecistocephalus*, Newport, 1843, *Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London*, **10**: 179.
ferrugineus, *Geophilus*, Koch, 1835, *Deutschlands Crustaceen, Myriapoden und Arachniden*, heft 3, tab. 2, unnumbered page.

The following is the reference for the designation of *Geophilus punctifrons* Newport, 1843 as the type species of the nominal genus *Mecistocephalus* Newport, 1843:

- Pocock, R.I.** 1898. Report on the centipedes and millipedes obtained by Dr A. Willey in the Loyalty Islands, New Britain, and elsewhere. Pp. 59–74 in Willey, A. (Ed.), *Zoological Results based on material from New Britain, New Guinea, Loyalty Isles and elsewhere*, vol. 1, p. 63.